REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are the claims currently pending in the Application.

Claims 1, 8 and 10-12 are amended to clarify features recited thereby.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 28, 2001.

Objections

The Examiner objects to the Specification because of certain informalities.

The Specification is amended and therefore this objection should now be withdrawn.

The Examiner objects to claims 6, 8 and 9 because of certain informalities. Claim 6 is amended. This amendment is not a narrowing amendment and is not made for reasons of patentability (the amendment is not required by statute or regulation). Claims 8 and 9 were objected to solely because of their dependency from claim 6. Therefore, these objections to claims 6, 8 and 9 should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 6, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of insufficient antecedent bases for terms in the claims.

Claims 6, 8 and 10 are amended. These amendments are not narrowing amendments. Therefore, the rejection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Li, et al. ("Video-Based Online Face Recognition Using Identity Surfaces"). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant's claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the cited reference. By way example, independent claims 1, 11 and 12 require combining the probe images of the temporal sequence of images to be classified, to form a higher resolution image, and classifying the higher resolution image.

Li discloses face recognition by computing pattern distances to a preliminarily determined identity surface (Li, Abstract). Li discloses that in the training stage, an identity surface (see, Li, Fig. 3) is constructed in the KDA (Kernel Discriminate Analysis) feature space (Li, page 42, section 3; page 43, section 3.3) and in the recognition stage, an object trajectory is obtained by projecting face patterns of the subject into the KDA feature space (Li, page 43, section 3.4); and finally, in the matching phase, the object trajectory is matched to a set of identity model trajectories to determine whether the match exists (Li, page 43, section 3.4). Li discloses that the matching is performed based on computing trajectory distances, that is, for example, the weighted sum of the distances between patterns on the object trajectory and their corresponding patterns on the model trajectories (Li, page 43, section 3.4).

Li does not disclose or suggest combining the probe images of the temporal sequence of images to be classified to form a higher resolution image and classifying the higher resolution image, as *inter alia*, required by independent claims 1, 11 and 12. First, Li does not disclose or suggest <u>combining probe images to form a higher resolution image</u>. As discussed, Li discloses obtaining an object trajectory from images to be tested and matched.

Further, since Li does not disclose or suggest this feature, Li is incapable of disclosing or suggesting combining the probe images to form a higher resolution image and classifying the higher resolution image, as further required by independent claims 1, 11 and 12.

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In fact, Li teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention, because Li discloses obtaining an object trajectory for images to be tested, and using the object trajectory in the matching process. Therefore, Li does not even remotely disclose or suggest Applicant's invention, as claimed in independent claims 1, 11 and 12.

Claims 2-5 depend from independent claim 1, and thus incorporate novel and nonobvious features thereof. Accordingly, claims 2-5 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that their respective base claim is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

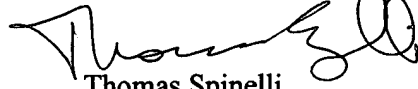### Rejection of Claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Li and Gutta, et al. (" Mixture of Experts for Classification of Gender, Athletic Origin, and Pose of Human Faces"). This rejection is traversed.

Claims 7-10 depend from independent claim 1, and thus incorporate novel and nonobvious features thereof. Gutta does not remedy the deficiencies of Li as they relate to independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 7-10 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner

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reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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